

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

PRS-01 SP-02 /032 W

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R 091606Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7004

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

INFO AMEMBASSYPARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 1316

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IV, CM

SUB: HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY VISIT TO CAMEROON POSTPONED

REF: (A) ABIDJAN 624, (B) YAOUNDE 472

1. IVORY COAST NEWS MEDIA HAVE STILL NOT ANNOUNCED POSTPONEMENT
PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY'S TRIP TO CAMEROON, WHICH WAS
SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 9-16 AND WAS POSTPONED LAST WEEK
(REFTEL B).

2. RUMOR OF POSTPONEMENT CAME TO THE EMBASSY FROM CHINESE
AMBASSADOR DAY BEFORE REFTEL B. WHEN I SPOKE TO HIM AFTER
RECEIPT REFTEL B, HE ALREADY HAD FIRM STORY THAT POSTPONE-
MENT WAS DUE TO PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY'S POOR HEALTH, NEED
FOR A REST AND POSSIBILITY THAT, IN A FEW DAYS, HE WOULD
TRAVEL TO FRANCE FOR THAT PURPOSE.

3. ON FEBRUARY 8 AT LUNCHEON WE GAVE FOR DEPARTING NIGERIAN
AMBASSADOR, CHIEF OF PROTOCOL CONFIRMED THAT PRESIDENT IS ILL
AND STAYING IN YAMOUSSOUKRO, HE WAS THUS UNABLE TO GO TO CAM-
EROON AND UNABLE TO RECIEVE NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR HERE FOR
FAREWELL CALL. CHIEF OF PROTOCOL SAID THAT TRIP WAS PUT OFF
TO SOME DATE LATER THIS YEAR TO BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN TWO
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GOVERNMENTS. HE WAS NONCOMMITTAL WHEN ASKED WHETHER PRESIDENT

WOULD GO TO FRANCE FOR A REST.

4. ONE OTHER STORY, CLEARLY FROM AN INTERESTED PARTY, WAS THE ZAIRE AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT THAT HOUPHOUET DID NOT GO TO CAMEROON AT THIS TIME BEACUSE OF PRESIDENT AHIDJO'S ABOUT-FACE ON RECOGNITION OF MPLA.

5. WE SHALL CONINTUE TO SEEK TO DETERMINE REASONS FOR POSTPONEMENT, ALTHOUGH HEALTH SEEMS MOST LIKELY REASON.

6.FOR YAOUNDE: ANY FURTHER INDICATIONS YOU CAN GET OF REASONS GIVEN TO GURC FOR POSTPONEMENT WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATED.

SMITH

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NNN

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